certain categories of beneficiaries; (iii) sale of excess stocks in open market sales etc.

(c) The Central Government, in consultation with the State Governments and UT Administrations have decided to adopt an area approach to focus attention on an effective reach of essential commodities. For this purpose, about 1700 Blocks have been identified, viz. areas covered by Desert Development Programme (DDP), Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), certain Designated Hill Areas (DHA) and Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDP) for issue of ration cards to the uncovered population in these areas, introduction of door step delivery system and creation of additional storage capacity for stocking of PDS items.

Violation of the Code of Bureau of Indian Standards

1350. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in 'Financial Express' dated 2nd November, 1991 under the caption "The Games big houses play";

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the action taken against them for violating the code of Bureau of Indian Standards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The allegation regarding violation the code of Bureau of Indian Standards by large companies and misuse of ISI mark by them are not correct, and hence the Government do not propose to take any action against them.

Role of Public Distribution System in curbing price rise

1351. KUMARI CHANDRIKA PREMJI KENIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether efforts aimed at keeping the downward trend of prices of cereals have succeeded; and

(b) if not, the remedial measures Government propose to take to make the Public Distribution System a success in curbing the price rise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) There has been increase in the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) of "All Commodities" including cereals during the last one year, ending 16th November 1991. Keeping in view the lean season for kharif cereals, the Government decided to increase the PDS allocations to States/UTs for the months of August to October, 1991.

As a further measure to check the rise in open market prices, the Government permitted FCI to sell, in open market 3 lakh tonnes each of Rice and Wheat in October, 1991. A further quantity of 3 lakh tonnes of wheat has been permitted to be sold in December, 1991. The Public Distribution System (PDS) has been envisaged as a supplementary effort which helps protect the purchasing power of weaker sections of the population.

Demand of edible oil

1352. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the production and demand gap of edible oil during last six months;

(b) whether the gap was met by imports of edible oil;

(c) if so, the quantum of edible oil imported and whether the import was made against the Exim Scrip;

(d) whether this was against the import policy announced in July last; and

(e) what was the quantity of imported oil supplied through Public Distribution System and price charged from the distribution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The gap between demand and indigenous production of edible oil for the oil year 1990-91 (Nov. to Oct.) was around 6 lakh MTs.

(b) to (d) With a view to bridge the above mentioned gap to the extent possible, a quantity of 0.9 lakh MTs. of edible oil was imported against free foreign exchange till March, 91 and no further import could be made thereafter on account of severe foreign exchange constraints. Govt. has, however, authorised import of edible oil through STC against purchase and surrender of Exim Scrips. Against this authorisation, STC contracted a quantity of 66000 MTs of Palmolein. Out of this, 54000 MTs has already arrived as on 2nd Dec., 1991 and remaining on high sea. In addition, State Govts. have also been allowed to directly import 48000 MTs against export of certain goods.

(e) The quantity of imported edible oil allocated to and lifted by the States/UTs during the last oil year and till now is as under:—

(Quantity in MTs)

	Allocation	Lifting
Oil year 90-91 (Nov. 90 to Oct. 91)	1,54,205	1, 60,009
Nov., 1991	22,175	3,117 (upto 20-11-91)

The Central issue prices of edible oils effective from 26th January, 1991 are Rs. 16,500 PMT for the oil supplied in bulk and Rs. 19,000 PMT for the oil supplied in 15 Kg. tins.

Supply of foodgrains to Fair Price Shops

1353. KUMARI ALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was acute shortage of foodgrains in the F.P.S. all over the country during August-September, 1991; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and the steps taken to improve the situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) The Central Government makes allocation of foodgrains to State Government/UT Administrations for distribution under Public Distribution System (PDS) to consumers. Keeping in view the lean season in August—October, 1991, the Central Government allotted additional quantum of foodgrains to States/Uts for PDS during these months. No overall shortage of foodgrains in Fair Price Shops all over the country was reported during August-September, 1991.

1354. [*Transferred to the 13th December, 1991*].